

# EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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June 4, 2002

### **U.S. AMBASSADOR ATTENDS MEETING ON ANTI-CORRUPTION**

**SANTO DOMINGO** – U.S. Ambassador, Hans H. Hertell, attended a conference, sponsored by the **Anti-Corruption National Advisory Committee**, presided by Sergio Grullón, Secretary of the Presidency. In this conference, Mr. Grullón addressed the civil society representatives inviting them to join forces with the Committee to favor transparency of every Dominican entity.

The Committee was established under decree number 783-01, dated July 24, 2001. Is conformed by the Executive Branch, civil society and catholic and evangelistic church representatives.

Among its members are Virgilio Bello Rosa, General Prosecutor; Federico Lalane José, General Controller; Máximo Aristy Caraballo, Santo Domingo District Attorney; Jesús Méndez, Santiago District Attorney; Jesús Félix, Director, Department of Anti-Corruption, whom is also the Secretary of the Committee, and Guido Gómez Mazara, Judicial Consultant, representing the Executive Branch.

Among the six civil society organizations forming the Committee were Participación Ciudadana, Alianza ONG and the Youth Association for Peace, representatives of the Santiago Strategic Plan, members of the private and public sector also attending the event.

This activity is part of the Transparency and Gobernability Program, developed by Casals & Associates, Inc., since September 2001 and is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Strengthening Rule of Law and Human Rights Program. This Program's objective is to promote debates on legal initiatives, reforms and institutionalism which main purpose is to make public administration more effective, transparent and efficient.